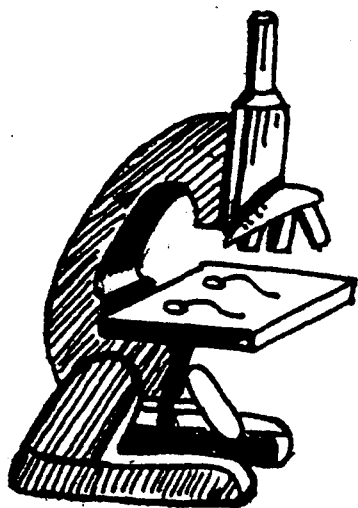


## COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES



Have you ever heard someone say, "He must have a virus infection?" What is a virus?

Many years ago Pasteur proved that all contagious diseases are caused by living germs. But when the liquid from some diseased plants was placed under a high-powered microscope, scientists could not see any germs. Nevertheless, there was something in the liquid that was causing the plant to be diseased.

Scientists finally concluded that the agents that were causing the disease were living organisms that were too small to be seen under a microscope. These organisms were named viruses.

A virus by itself in a test tube is nothing more than a chemical without any sign of life. Yet if it is placed into plant or animal tissue, it begins to reproduce and causes disease. This means a virus is a parasite. A parasite is unable to live and grow unless it is in the cells of a living organism.

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1. The main idea in this story is:
  - (a) diseased plants
  - (b) viruses
  - (c) scientists
  - (d) test tubes
2. Who proved that all contagious diseases are caused by living germs?
  - (a) scientists
  - (b) Latin people
  - (c) Pasteur
  - (d) Benjamin Franklin
3. Scientists concluded that the agent causing diseases could not be seen under a microscope because they were:
  - (a) too small
  - (b) organisms
  - (c) poisons
  - (d) plants
4. A virus is a:
  - (a) microscope
  - (b) tissue
  - (c) cell
  - (d) parasite
5. It is the special chemical placed into plant or animal tissue that causes:
  - (a) the experiment
  - (b) no effect
  - (c) reproduction of the disease
  - (d) the plant not to become infected
6. In this story the word concluded means:
  - (a) agreed
  - (b) discussed
  - (c) planned
  - (d) argued
7. Pasteur, with his discoveries, was serving:
  - (a) the germ population
  - (b) mankind everywhere
  - (c) only his homeland
  - (d) druggists
8. A parasite cannot live and grow unless it is in a cell of a living organism because:
  - (a) it will get cold
  - (b) it will have no food
  - (c) it is too small
  - (d) it does not grow